

For thirteen years, the City of Monterey Park has been instrumental in bridging the cultural divide amongst its residents. Their leadership and initiative on multicultural awareness have set a high standard for other cities. The 32nd Congressional District is a culturally diverse district, and it is important that all of us work together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve the dreams for our families and ourselves.

Throughout my career in public service, I have advocated for policies that promote greater multicultural harmony and recognize the strength that lies in the great diversity of our community, our State, and our Nation. In order to build upon the strength of our diverse communities, we must break down the discriminatory barriers that exist in our country. In this regard, I am fighting in Congress for efforts to eliminate discrimination in all aspects of society, including health care, education, housing, and employment.

I take great pride in the cultural diversity that can be found in Monterey Park and throughout the Los Angeles region. I commend the City of Monterey Park and the Monterey Park Community Relations Commission for their efforts to promote greater multicultural harmony and understanding. These types of events bring the community together to focus on diversity and appreciation of our differences.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE  
FIRST CLASS JOSE CASANOVA JR.**

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Private First Class Jose Casanova Jr., United States Army 82nd Airborne Division. This young man, from my hometown of El Monte, was a communications specialist who served his country with courage, pride and loyalty. On October 13, 2003, Private Jose Casanova Jr. made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed while serving our country.

Private Jose Casanova Jr., a product of the public school system, earned his high school diploma in June of 1999 from Arroyo High School. During high school, Private Casanova was an active member of the student body participating in football, soccer, track and band. After graduation, his passion for music and helping people led him to return to Arroyo High School as a mentor to younger musicians.

On January 3, 2002, Private Casanova enlisted in the United States Army to serve his country and to achieve his dream of going to college and becoming a firefighter. Private Jose Casanova Jr. received training in Fort Bragg North Carolina. His 82nd Airborne unit was activated and deployed to Iraq on February 14, 2003.

Jose Casanova Jr., a United States citizen and a true patriot, is survived by his mother Teresa Muñoz De Casanova and father Jose Casanova Jr. and eight siblings: Sergio, Gustavo, Olga de Carmen, Veronica, Teresa, Maria De Lourdes, Melissa and Gerardo.

Private Casanova's sacrifice will not be forgotten. We are forever in his debt.

**ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT OF 2003**

**HON. RICK RENZI**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Adoption Caucus, I rise in support of the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003, H.R. 3182, to continue rewarding States for their efforts to promote adoption of children in need of loving families. Since 1997, the number of children adopted from foster care has increased 64 percent. I am happy that States have made substantial progress in finding safe, permanent homes for kids. However, many older children still linger in foster care, and this bill will assist States to find adoptive families for these children. Approximately 126,000 children currently are awaiting adoption, half of whom are age nine or older. The Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 enhances the current incentive program, which rewards States that make gains in the number of children adopted, by creating a new incentive for States that increase adoptions of children age 9 or older. This change reflects a proposal outlined by the Bush Administration.

**PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP MUST  
STOP TERRORIST ATTACKS**

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to the families of the three Americans who were killed yesterday, and a fourth who was seriously injured by a massive terrorist explosion, while they were traveling along the main road toward Gaza City. They were employees of a government contractor that provides security services to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

I also want to express my outrage at the continued terrorist attacks that take the lives of children and innocent people in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Only twisted minds could ever conceive of such murders as "warfare."

What made this particular terrorist attack unusual was that it involved American citizens, part of a diplomatic and security convoy traveling to Gaza to interview Palestinian candidates for a Fulbright scholarship. Ironically, this scholarship was established to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills. What was tragically not unusual, however, was that this was just the latest in a string of hundreds of violent killings spanning several years.

Mr. Speaker, when I visited Israel a few months ago, I met with Palestinian leaders who expressed their opposition to terrorist attacks. However, their actions have not backed up their rhetoric. Yesterday's terrorist bombing further demonstrates the Palestinian authority's continued reluctance—perhaps even aversion—to aggressively dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in areas under its control. Although Palestinian officials condemned this attack, their inability to act against such acts of terrorism has led to continued terrorist attacks against both Americans and Israelis.

In order to have real progress toward peace, Palestinians must have a leader who is willing to stop terrorism—leadership the world has not seen from Yasser Arafat. The Palestinian authority, while denouncing terrorism, has never fought terrorists or terror organizations in a serious or effective way either under Arafat's direct leadership, or in the shadow of his leadership.

It is clear that despite the best efforts of people of good will on both sides, real progress toward peace can never happen as long as the Palestinians have a President who is unwilling to stop terrorists from blowing up innocent Israelis and Americans.

**NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY  
IN MARYLAND**

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in Baltimore, Maryland, metropolitan area.

We need little reminder today of the courage and sacrifice of our service men and women. Whether protecting us in past World Wars, in North Korea, Vietnam, or the Persian Gulf, or fighting today in the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, our military has rarely questioned their mission to protect the freedoms and liberties we American citizens enjoy every day. In exchange for their service, we promised to take care of our veterans in life and in death. This bill addresses the most basic of those promises for our veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Maryland has a long-standing tradition of military service and sacrifice dating back to the Revolutionary War—when the Old Line Soldiers were considered General Washington's favorite after saving the Continental Army from destruction as only the Marylanders were left standing. This historical tie was reinforced when the Secretary of the Navy established the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in 1845—a testament to Maryland's contribution to the future service of our nation.

That tradition continues today with bases in Ft. Meade, Aberdeen, Ft. Detrick, and Andrews Air Force Base, just to name a few. Maryland is home to over 45,000 active, reserve and guard service men and women, as well as their families. And there are over half a million civilian veterans residing in the State of Maryland.

Yet there is no longer federal or national cemetery space for first interments—for veterans who wish to have a casket burial. While there is state cemetery space, I stand here today on behalf of the veterans I represent, on behalf of their families, and on behalf of the veterans throughout my home state of Maryland to ask my colleagues to keep the national promise to all veterans. At the very least, we should offer choices to veterans between national and state cemetery burials. Families should not be forced to travel great distances to visit their loved ones.

There are approximately 27 million veterans in the United States today—10 percent of our national population. And Roll Call on September 29, 2003, said that we are losing 1,500